



Mission: NEAR expendable vehicle launch on a McDonnell Douglas Delta II rocket

Launch date, time: Feb. 16, 3:53 p.m. from Launch Complex 17, Pad B, Cape Canaveral Air Station

Mission synopsis: The Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous (NEAR) will measure the composition and structure of the asteroid Eros and provide fundamental information about objects that make close encounter with Earth.



Mission: STS-75 on Columbia

Launch date, time: Feb. 22, 3:18 p.m. from Launch Pad 39B

Synopsis: The seven-member international STS-75 crew will conduct scientific investigations with both the Tethered Satellite System-1R (TSS-1R) and United States Microgravity Payload-3 (USMP-3) primary payloads during the 75th Space Shuttle mission.

Landing date, time: March 7, 7:32 a.m. at Kennedy Space Center's Shuttle Landing Facility

Spaceport News

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John F. Kennedy Space Center



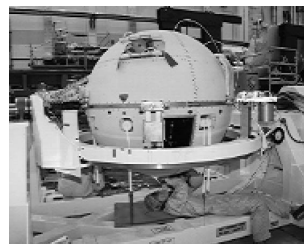
THE STS-75 flight crew poses at the 195-foot level of Launch Pad 39B during Terminal Countdown Demonstration Test (TCDT) activities. They are, front from left, Payload Commander Franklin Chang-Diaz, Mission Specialists Claude Nicollier and Maurizio Cheli and Payload Specialist Umberto Guidoni. In back from left are Mission Commander Andrew Allen, Mission Specialist Jeffrey Hoffman, and Pilot Scott "Doc" Horowitz.

Tethered satellite, USMP payloads to fly again on the STS-75 mission

By Chuck Weirauch

Experiments that could lead to a new way to generate electrical power in space, provide new insights into physical science and possibly lead to improved manufacturing processes and products on Earth will be the highlights of the STS-75 mission. At press time the mission was scheduled to lift off from Launch Pad 39B between 3:18 p.m. and 5:48 p.m. EST on Feb. 22.

During the 13-day, 16-hour space flight, the seven-member international crew will conduct scientific investigations with both Tethered Satellite System-



THE SATELLITE element of the Teathered Satellite System--1R is processed at KSC last summer.



THE UNITED STATES Microgravity Payload-3 pictured during processing.

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NASA/KSC prepare for new approach to doing business

By Lisa Malone

One of the most sweeping changes ever to impact Kennedy Space Center will be the transition of daily Shuttle processing functions to a single prime contractor, United Space Alliance, under the Space Flight Operations Contract (SFOC).

"This transition will be a slow and methodical process. This isn't a sprint, it's a marathon. The start line is Oct. 1, 1996 and the finish line is the year 2000," explained Roy Tharpe last month during a speech to the NASA Kennedy Manage-

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ADAMSON



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USA leaders share their vision, timeline

By Barb Compton

Kennedy Space Center employees got a glimpse of what the near future will hold when the leaders of the Shuttle program's single prime contractor shared their vision and transition timeline last week.

Kent Black, chief executive officer, and Jim Adamson, chief operating officer, of United Space Alliance (USA) briefed employees of Lockheed Martin

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